

Message Text

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43

ACTION AGR-20

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR UR

SUBJECT: EKSPORTKHLEB OFFICIALS ON USSR GRAIN CROP

DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR FAS, G&F DIVISION

REF: MOSCOW 12032

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY BRUNTHAVER MORNING OCTOBER 2, BELOUSOV, PRESIDENT OF EKSPORTKHLEB; AND KALITENKO, CHIEF OF GRAIN DEPARTMENT; CHARACTERIZED USSR GRAIN CROP AS "LARGEST ON RECORD," BUT ADDED THAT THE QUALITY AND PROTEIN WERE LOW BECAUSE OF RAINY WEATHER ESPECIALLY LATE IN SEASON.

2. BELOUSOV SAID THE MOST RECENT ESTIMATE OF THE GRAIN CROP HE HAD HEARD WAS 192 MILLION METRIC TONS. HE ADDED THAT THE QUALITY WAS LOW BECAUSE OF RAIN, ESPECIALLY IN THE CENTRAL CHERNOZEM, VOLGA, AND URALS REGIONS. THIS PROBLEM WAS NOT AS GREAT IN ALTAY KRAY AND NORTHERN KAZAKHSTAN.

3. KALITENKO DID NOT RESPOND DIRECTLY TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY BRUNTHAVER'S QUESTION CONCERNING THE USE OF LOW QUALITY WHEAT FOR LIVESTOCK FEED. INSTEAD, HE SAID THAT LOW QUALITY WHEAT "FROM KAZAKHSTAN" WOULD BE BLENDED WITH WHEAT FROM THE UKRAINE FOR MILLING. HE NOTED THAT THIS WAS NOT AN UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE.

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DUBS

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